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ance, considering Two of the Stems alone contain each above 1000 Rings: Some of these Stems were above Two Yards and an half high. I have to add, that this Plant was a Seedling last Year, transplanted out of the Fields on the End of a sloping Strawberry-bed; and I counted the Rings in the Middle of last *July*, when it had Thousands of Flowers upon it, which, with Thousands that must still succeed, might very probably produce more than 50000 Seeds\* more, considering 1000 Rings contain 12000 Seeds and more; and if we multiply the Number of Rings actually counted, by 14, the Number of Seeds contained in one Ring, instead of 12, we shall have an Addition of 20000 Seeds, all which, added together, amount to 200000, the possible Increase of one Seed.

Macclesfield, Sept. 1. 1742.

*Joseph Hobson.*

V. Excerpta ex *Epistola Cl. Viri Joh. Ambrosii Beureri ad Petr. Collinson, R. S. S. de natura Succini.*

\* \*

Read Jan. 27.  
1742-3.

**D**E Succino non solum *negative*, sed etiam *affirmative*, hæc est Sententia mea: Succinum vel Ambram citrinam succum esse arborum resinofum nego & pernego, ob sequentes ratiunculas. Primum mihi non verisimile videtur *istum* succinum per terram transire in mare: nam

\* Even supposing many of the Flowers to produce no Seed.

unde

unde iste transitus? cum *tamen* arbores mari non tam *propinquæ* sint.

Deinde neutiquam hæc resina, sicut aqua, terram permeare, & in illa tam copiose se diffundere queat; sed potius, si hoc possibile esset, in superficie terræ hæreret, rigeret, & consisteret.

Præterea calor solis, quanquam magnus & continuus, neutiquam ejusmodi flumen resinarum efficere vel producere potest; quo multi subterranei tractus expleantur. *Exsudatio* enim resinarum per guttulas fieri solet, quarum minima pars terram attingit, sed potius cuti arboris adhærent. Porro cur in ejusmodi locis succinum haud raro reperitur, ex. gr. in montibus, fossis ac foveis, & quibus tamen nunquam arbores satæ fuerunt? Postremo argumenta quæ honoratissimus amicus ex distillatione acidi vitriolici cum terebinthina eduxit, probanda non probant, quia quidem aliquid bituminosi exinde producitur, quod vero nondum succinum verum est: caret enim productum interna æquali mixtione, sed etiam *diaphanitate*, *elasticitate*, duritieque. Hoc enim faciliiori modo, & fere extempore, produci queat per mixtionem olei alicujus destillati ætherei, cum acido vitriolico *concentrato*, ex qua mixtione statim quoddam bituminosum, sed non succinum oritur.

Sed etiam nunc addo, ea qua par est animi observantia ac modestia, quid ego, secundum tenues ingenii mei vires, de origine succini sentio. Succinum originem suam non ex vegetabili, sed minerali, id est, ex tenero bituminoso (ex. gr. oleo Naphthæ) & acido sulphureo vitriolico, quod in forma halitus se immiscet, & eo ipso illud statim indurefcit, trahere mihi credibile videtur. Id quoque probat succinum

fossile, ubi semper; uti Tu ipse, VIR CLARISSIME, in literis tuis illius rei memoriam fecisti; in ejusmodi ductibus, ex quibus succinum effoditur: in tractu nempe luti coerulei etiam lignum bituminosum, lithanthraces, minera vitriolica (haud raro aluminis) verumque succinum permixtis inveniri solet, quod propria experientia me docuit. Succinum vero, quod in *mari* reperitur, non alio modo oritur, quam illud, quod ex ductibus montium promitur; nisi quod mare æstuans illud fluctibus suis, & ductibus vi expellat, & partim ad ripas, partim vero in abyssum maris evomat.

Filum nunc abrumpo, propter arctos limites epistolæ meæ præfixos, hoc unicum adhuc adjiciens; quod quemadmodum acidum vitriolicum una cum bituminoso formam & speciem succini producat; illud acidum etiam in forma *subtilisata* & *concentrata* (sine aliqua destructione partis alicujus *constitutivi*) hoc penitus dissolvat, & in eodem statu rursus relinquat, pristinamque illius duritiem, *diaphanitatem*, & *elasticitatem* reducat.

Vale, sis faustus felixque, & nunquam immemor  
Tui addictissimi.

Dab. Noribergæ,  
die 20 Octob. 1742.